

Stream Line

City of Indianapolis / Department of Public Works / Indianapolis Clean Stream Team

Fall/Winter 2007 | Issue 14

Inside This Issue

- 2 Golf Outing Raises \$47,000
- 2 United Water to Operate Treatment Plant
- 2 Southeast Indianapolis Neighborhood to Receive Sewers, Drainage Relief
- 2 DPW and Volunteers Leave Colorful Reminders Throughout the City
- 4 Near East Side Infrastructure Improvements

Statement of Purpose

The Indianapolis Clean Stream Team is overseeing many projects to prevent raw sewage overflows into our waterways, eliminate failing septic systems, and improve flood control and drainage. Stream Line is published quarterly to keep you informed about the city's progress in restoring the health of our streams and improving the quality of life in our neighborhoods.

Contact Info

Send letters to:

Indianapolis Clean Stream Team
Attn: Lauren Hammond
1200 S. Madison Ave.
Suite 200
Indianapolis, IN 46225

Tel: 317-327-8720
Fax: 317-327-8699
Email: lhammond@indygov.org



**SewerOverflow
Hotline:
327-1643**

1,000 HOMES GET SEWER SERVICE IN 2007

More than 1,000 homes in Marion County received access to sanitary sewers in 2007 as the Department of Public Works moves forward aggressively with its Septic Tank Elimination Program (STEP).

Part of the city's Clean Streams-Healthy Neighborhoods program, STEP aims to eliminate septic systems in high-priority neighborhoods over a 20-year period.

"Compared to last year, we doubled the number of homes that converted to sanitary sewers in 2007," said Gary Huddleston, senior STEP project manager. "We are moving forward toward the goal of eliminating 18,000 high-priority septic systems by 2025."

Completed this fall, the Devon Corridor STEP project brought sewers to more than 700 homes. Nearly 75 percent of the homeowners had experienced septic failures. Since 2006, the Northeast side neighborhood also received 12 miles of new pavement and 24,000 feet of ditching. Area residents have begun connecting to the new sanitary sewer lines.

See "1,000 Homes get Sewer Service in 2007," Page 3



A STEP project in the Devon Corridor area brought sewers to more than 700 homes in 2007.

Change a Light, Dispose it Right

With all the recent news stories about "going green" and climate change, you may wonder how one person can make a difference. You can start by switching from incandescent to fluorescent lighting. It will lower your electricity bills while also reducing your impact on the environment.

Compared to traditional incandescent lights, compact fluorescent bulbs (CFLs) last longer and use less energy. Reducing energy consumption saves money on electric bills and also reduces air pollution at the power plant.

On October 14, the city of Indianapolis launched the Change a Light, Dispose it Right campaign at the Indianapolis Zoo. This new program is designed to raise awareness about the energy efficiency, long life and cost savings associated with using fluorescent lighting. It is also intended to educate residents and businesses on the need for proper disposal or recycling of these bulbs.

Proper handling of CFLs is important since each bulb contains a small amount of mercury. When

See "Change a Light, Dispose it Right," Page 3



**Change a Light
Dispose it Right**

Find us on the Web at: www.indycleanstreams.org

BRIEFS

Third Annual Golf Outing Raises \$47,000



Purdue freshman Jarell Davenport thanked Science Bound supporters for giving him a chance to attend college this fall.

The 2007 Clean Stream Team Scholarship Fund Golf Outing raised nearly half the amount needed to endow a second Purdue University/ Science Bound scholarship for a deserving Indianapolis Public Schools (IPS) student. The first Clean Stream Team scholarship was endowed a year ahead of schedule in 2006.

The Science Bound program mentors eighth through twelfth grade IPS students and encourages them to pursue careers in science, engineering, technology, and math and science education. IPS students who complete the five-year program and gain acceptance to Purdue in an approved field receive a full-tuition scholarship to Purdue for eight semesters. For more information about Science Bound, visit www.purdue.edu/ScienceBound.

The Clean Stream Team scholarship helps the dream of a college education become a reality. Thanks to all the golfers and sponsors who made this year’s golf outing such a swinging success!

DPW and Volunteers Leave Colorful Reminders Throughout the City



In an effort to improve water quality in Indianapolis, nearly 150 volunteers and Indianapolis Department of Public Works staff marked nearly 4,000 storm drains from October 2006 to September 2007, doubling DPW’s goal of marking 2,000 drains this year.

Part of Mayor Peterson’s Clean Streams-Healthy Neighborhoods initiative, DPW’s storm drain marking program is a campaign to remind residents that nothing should be dumped into storm drains because they connect to local waterways. With help from DPW staff, community volunteers mark storm drains with colorful labels that say “NO DUMPING – DRAINS TO STREAM.”

“Marking storm drains is a simple way for citizens to take part in preserving and protecting the waterways near their neighborhoods, schools and parks,” said Richard Wise, field services manager at DPW’s Office of Environmental Services.

To learn how your group can participate in the storm drain marking program, contact stormdrain@indygov.org.

Southeast Indianapolis Neighborhood to Receive Sewers, Drainage Relief



Mayor Bart Peterson, neighborhood representatives, DPW staff and contractors break ground on the Franklin/Southeastern project on Oct. 18, 2007.

In October, Mayor Bart Peterson, Department of Public Works Director Kumar Menon and neighborhood representatives broke ground on a high priority sewer project in the Franklin/Southeastern

neighborhood. The Franklin/Southeastern project is part of the Southeastern Corridor project, which is one of the largest Septic Tank Elimination Program (STEP) projects in the city’s 20-year plan. Homeowners in this neighborhood are facing the challenges and health hazards of failing septic systems that are leaching contaminants into the soil and contributing to water pollution. In addition, residents in portions of the project area will receive drainage improvements to address standing water in their streets and yards.

The \$21.3 million project will provide sanitary sewers to nearly 520 homes in the Franklin/Southeastern neighborhood, while the entire Southeastern Corridor project includes about 1,660 properties.

United Water Chosen to Operate Treatment Plant and Sewers

The Board of Public Works and the City-County Council have approved a new agreement with United Water Services to continue to operate and maintain the city’s two wastewater treatment plants and wastewater and storm sewers through 2016. Extensions may be granted through 2027.

The new agreement is incentive-based, with 20 percent of total compensation linked to performance measures for wet-weather operations, asset maintenance, odor control, minimizing sanitary sewer overflows and achieving high minority- and women-owned business participation.

“The agreement specifies a series of performance guarantees, performance standards and a collaborative planning process that should serve the city well for the next decade and beyond,” said Tim Method, DPW’s environmental coordinator.

United Water also has agreed to continue its civic grant program and launch new efforts to support splash parks, environmental education, green infrastructure, green power, strong energy management and tree planting.

1,000 Homes get Sewer Service in 2007 (continued from Page 1)

“Failing septic systems are linked to unsafe levels of *E. coli* bacteria in many neighborhood streams and ditches,” added Huddleston. “Installing sanitary sewers leads to increased property values, improved environmental and health conditions for neighborhoods, and most importantly, a better quality of life for thousands of Indianapolis residents.”

The Forest Park/Southport project began construction in January 2007 and is scheduled for completion in December 2007. This \$5 million project will bring sewers to nearly 200 homes on the city’s south side.

Eighty homes on the city’s Southeast side also have received sanitary sewers in Phase I of the Southeastern Corridor project, one of the largest STEP projects planned by the city.

Since the STEP program began in 2006, more than 1,500 homes have been converted from septic systems to the city’s sanitary sewer system.

Studies have shown that failing septic systems contribute to poor water quality in the city’s waterways and create health hazards in neighborhood streams. Through the STEP program, residents are one step closer to cleaner streams and healthier neighborhoods.

Change a Light, Dispose it Right (continued from Page 1)

handled improperly, mercury released from a broken bulb can be hazardous to the health of humans, the environment and wildlife all along the food chain.

In Marion County, recycling CFLs is easy to do. Residents can drop off bulbs at a special collection event or at one of the city’s permanent ToxDrop locations shown in the box to the right.

To encourage local businesses to recycle fluorescent bulbs, DPW has a limited number of free recycling boxes available. Each box allows a business to easily recycle up to 64 fluorescent tubes at no cost. The goal is help businesses develop a permanent program for the collection and recycling of spent tubes.

Do your part. **Change a light** from incandescent to fluorescent to help conserve energy and clean up our air. Then, **dispose it right** by recycling old fluorescent bulbs.

For more information, visit www.indygov.org/cfl or call 327-4TOX.



WINTER TIPS



Snowy, icy weather is upon us! As you battle the elements this winter, remember to take the following steps to protect yourself and our waterways:

1. Keep storm drains clear of ice, snow, leaves and other debris to avoid serious drainage or flooding problems. Proper drainage prevents water from ponding on your street or driveway, which may turn into ice during cold weather.
2. Use a shovel to remove ice and snow from your property. Apply chemical deicers as a last resort, as these chemicals eventually will be carried away to streams along with the melted ice.
3. Beware of thin ice. People drown each year after falling into frozen ponds and streams. Warn children about playing on frozen waterways, especially without supervision.

ToxDrop Locations



1. Belmont Avenue, 2700 S. Belmont Ave. Every Tuesday and Thursday, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.
2. Trader’s Point, 7550 N. Lafayette Rd. First and Third Saturday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
3. IMPD Training Facility, 9049 E. 10th St. First and Third Saturday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
4. Perry Township Government Center, 4925 Shelby St. Second and Fourth Saturday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

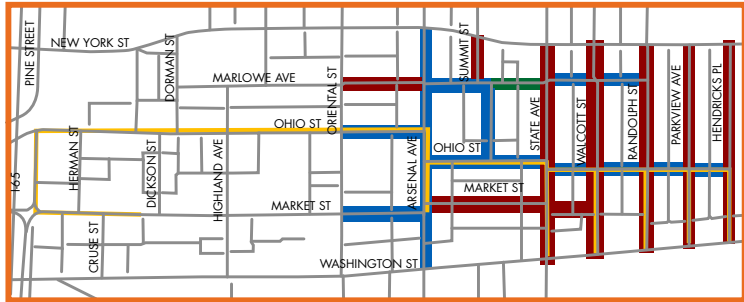
GREAT INDY NEIGHBORHOODS PROVIDES SEED FOR EAST SIDE IMPROVEMENTS

The city will invest more than \$10 million to improve the quality of life on the near east side. As part of the Great Indy Neighborhoods Initiative, several neighborhoods in the Near Eastside Neighborhood Association will receive improved drainage, curbs, streets and sidewalks. While this nearly \$5 million, three-phase project is under construction, the Indianapolis Department of Public Works is spending more than \$5 million to rehabilitate and separate the combined sewer system in the area. This sewer project was expedited in order to limit the construction impact on residents.

Construction will start this winter to install a new storm sewer that will reduce raw sewage overflows into nearby Pogues Run. The project area is loosely bounded by Interstate 65 to the west, Washington Street to the south, Willard Park to the east and Ohio Street to the north.

The project also will help solve a drainage problem that restricts access to the John H. Boner Community Center. Standing water and winter ice at the entrance on the corner of 10th Street and Beville Avenue makes access to the center difficult for both workers and area residents.

“We are so pleased to see these changes because we’ve needed the work for decades. I’m sure that people in the near east side will notice the benefits of this project right away,” said Joe Bowling, community builder at the center.



Phase 1A of the project includes installing a storm sewer, which will reduce raw sewage overflows into Pogues Run.

LEGEND

Pavement Replacement

Pavement and Curb Replacement

Pavement, Curb, and Sidewalk Replacement

Storm Sewer

With the help of Great Indy Neighborhoods, the city created a redevelopment area and special financing district to generate funding for this project, which includes new curbs, streets and sidewalks in many areas.

All sewer and surface improvements are expected to be completed in early 2009.

For more information on the Great Indy Neighborhoods Initiative, visit www.greatindyneighborhoods.org.



WE'VE MOVED!

Please update your records with our new address:

1200 S. Madison Ave., Suite 200

Indianapolis, IN 46225

INDIANAPOLIS

CLEAN STREAM TEAM

1200 S. Madison Ave.

Suite 200

Indianapolis, IN 46225

StreamLine

City of Indianapolis / Department of Public Works / Indianapolis Clean Stream Team